

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/771,977

Applicant(s)

CHUNG, I-CHAO

Examiner

Art Unit

Dirk Wright

3681

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6,7 and 9-34.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>06252004</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                               | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|  | 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>drawing approval</u> .                |

*Examiner's Amendment*

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it *must* be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows: In claim 9, "8" was changed to "4" because claim 8 has been cancelled and the subject matter therein has been incorporated into claim 4.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-34 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious the invention of a drive axle assembly, comprising: a carrier, a differential case rotatably disposed in said carrier, a pair of axle shafts disposed within said differential case and rotatable relative to each other about an axis; a drive hub disposed about one of said axle shafts, a plurality of friction discs adjacent one another in an alternating relationship defining a running clearance there between and disposed within and alternatively connected to said differential case and said drive hub, a plate defining a plurality of levers each extending radially relative to said axis between a radially inward end to a radially outward end and engaging said friction discs and integrally interconnected by links adjacent radially outward ends; an actuator assembly disposed about one of said axle shafts for engaging said levers to force said levers into engagement with said friction discs for forcing said friction discs into engagement with one another for transmitting torque between one of said axle shafts and said differential case, and said radially inward end engaging said actuator assembly and said radially

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outward end engaging said differential case having a disc engaging portion between said radially inward and outward ends for engaging said friction discs between said radially inward and outward ends thereof for amplifying a thrust force applied by said actuator assembly by pivoting about the engagement of said radially outward end with said differential case in response to axial movement of said radially inward end by said actuator assembly.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Prior Art Discussed***

The examiner has considered the references cited by applicant in his Information Disclosure Statement filed June 25, 2004. None of the references show all of the features of the claimed invention, taken individually or in combination.

The examiner did not cite any further references.

***Conclusion***

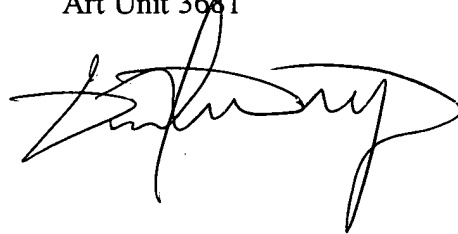
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dirk Wright whose telephone number is 571-272-7098. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dirk Wright  
Primary Examiner  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dirk Wright', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

DW  
Saturday, April 23, 2005



*approved*  
 4/23/05

**DIRK WRIGHT**  
 PRIMARY EXAMINER  
 ART UNIT 352102  
 3681

